

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 /016 W
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P R 201910Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2078
INFO DEA HQ/WASHDC

S E C R E T ASUNCION 0277

NOFORN

STATE FOR S/NM AND ARA-ARELLANO
DEA FOR ENOA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, PA
SUBJ: NAPOUT CASE - MEETING WITH INTERIOR MINISTER

REF: (A) ASUNCION 188 (B) ASUNCION 194 (C) STATE 12877
(D) STATE 13082 (E) DEA 1449 (F) ASUNCION 0234

1. SAIC MATTHEWS AND SA HINOJOSA MET FOR TWENTY MINUTES TODAY WITH
MOI MONTANARO AT HIS REQUEST. DNN DIRECTOR MONTIEL WAS NOT
PRESENT.

2. THE MOI WAS ADVISED THAT DEA'S FINAL INVESTIGATIVE
RESULTS INDICATED THAT NAPOUT WAS NOT INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS AS
PREVIOUS INFORMATION HAD INDICATED. THE ENTIRE MATTER HAD BEEN
A FABRICATION ON THE PART OF ANGEL DAVID PEREIRA, ENIO VARELA
AND OTHERS.

3. THE MOI RESPONDED THAT HE HAD BEEN APPRISED OF THE SITUATION
BY DNN DIRECTOR MONTIEL AND WAS GLAD THAT THE MATTER
HAD BEEN RESOLVED. THE MINISTER THEN ADVISED THAT HE WAS
GOING TO ISSUE AN ARREST ORDER FOR VARELA WHOM THE MINISTER
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DESCRIBED AS A DANGEROUS BUT RICH CRIMINAL. HE COMMENTED
THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHY VARELA HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO ESCAPE
FROM U.S. CUSTODY.

4. THE MINISTER WAS TOLD THAT VARELA HAD ESCAPED WITH SIX
OTHER SUBJECTS AND THAT TWO REMAINED IN ARGENTINA AND ONE
(VARELA) WAS HERE IN PARAGUAY. HE WAS ALSO TOLD THAT THE JAIL

GUARDS HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN ARRESTED FOR ALLOWING THEIR
ESCAPE IN EXCHANGE FOR BRIBES.

5. MOI MONTANARO SAID HE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT VARELA WAS
ARRESTED. HE WAS TOLD THAT THE ACO STAFF REMAINED AT HIS
DISPOSAL FOR ANY COOPERATION NECESSARY. HE WAS ADVISED THAT
A POLYGRAPH TEAM WAS STANDING BY IF NEEDED. HE WAS TOLD THAT
THROUGH THE USE OF THE POLYGRAPH AND PROFESSIONAL INTERROGATORY
TECHNIQUES THIS WAS ALL THAT WAS NEEDED.

6. MONTANARO STATED THAT HE HAD HEARD FROM NAPOUT THAT THE
POLYGRAPH MACHINE WAS INDEED A GOOD THING. NAPOUT HAD TOLD
THE MOI THAT HIS TREATMENT IN THE U.S. HAD BEEN PROFESSIONAL,
AND HAD EXTOLLED THE WONDERS OF THE MACHINE. MONTANARO SAID
THAT NAPOUT WOULD NOT RETURN FROM BRAZIL UNTIL APPROXIMATELY
THE END OF JANUARY. AT THAT TIME HE WOULD BE ADVISED BY MOI
MONTANARO RE THE FINAL CASE RESULTS.

7. MONTANARO REQUESTED THAT THE QUESTION OF A RETURN OF
THE POLYGRAPH TEAM BE KEPT IN ABEYANCE UNTIL AFTER THE
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ON FEBRUARY 12, 1978. THEREAFTER
THE MOI WOULD HAVE TIME TO ATTEND TO THIS AND OTHER MATTERS.

8. THE MOI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ALL THE ASSISTANCE
BEING GIVEN TO THE DNN AND MONTIEL IN PARTICULAR WHOM HE
TRUSTS.

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9. COMMENT: THIS BLAND REACTION MAY INDICATE THAT THE GOP
(OR AT ANY RATE THE INTERIOR MINISTRY) WILL DROP ANY FURTHER
INVESTIGATION OF VARELA. ALTERNATIVELY, MONTANARO -- AS HE SAID,
ONCE THE ELECTIONS ARE PAST -- MAY WISH TO CONSIDER FURTHER
HOW BEST TO EXPLOIT THE INFORMATION ABOUT VARELA, EITHER FOR
POLITICAL PURPOSES (VARELA IS BELIEVED TO BE CLOSE TO PRESI-
DENTIAL ADVISER PAPPALARDO) OR FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL GAIN. AT
THIS POINT, WE SEE NO CAUSE FOR ANY PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT
DEA'S STATUS IN PARAGUAY.

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Message Attributes

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